

processes and ink-jet processes which require a flat surface to properly imprint, are not highly suitable for printing information after the cover is sealed on the container. In addition, since a contact lens package is sterilized, typically in an autoclave, after the cover is sealed to the container, the ink applied on the cover is subjected to a high temperature and humidity environment, which promotes thermal degradation of the applied ink and further impedes legibility of the printed information. In contrast, the present process does not use an ink system to impart information on the cover, and therefore, legibility of the printed information is not affected by the sterilization process. Accordingly, a preferred embodiment is that the laminate cover material is printed after the cover material is affixed to the package using the laser printing process.

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Cont. In accordance with the present invention, the upper layer and the backing layer of the laminate covering material have a color contrast such that when a pattern of the upper layer is removed by the laser, the pattern is clearly visible. For example, when a blue pigment or dye is added to the thermoplastic formulation for the upper layer and an aluminum layer is used as the backing layer, a highly legible message can be imparted on the cover material by removing or ablating the upper layer to form a pattern of alphabets or a graphic design.

In the claims:

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Please cancel claims 17-21.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 5-7, 12-14 and 16 as follows:

A3
1. (Amended) A method for marking a laminated film that covers and seals a contact lens container, wherein said laminated film comprises a metal film and a plastic film affixed to the metal film, the method comprising the steps of:

creating marks on the laminated film by removing said plastic film down to said metal film without perforating the metal film or by changing the plastic film in a manner that a visible color change occurs, by means of a laser.

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3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the plastic film has a side facing towards the metal film and a side facing away from the metal film, and said plastic film has printed text on the side facing towards or away from the metal film.

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5. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the contact lens container is a blister pack and the laminated film is firmly welded with the blister pack to seal the blister pack.

A5
cont. 6. (Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein several blister packs are covered and sealed by a strip of the laminated film and form a blister strip.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the blister strip has five blister packs.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 10 comprising the use of a CO₂-laser with the wavelength 10.6 μ m and the focus point of the laser beam with a diameter of 1000–100 μ m, and preferably of 320 μ m.

A6 13. (Amended) The method of claim 6 comprising a stopper bar for the blister packs.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein the blister packs are transported within a packaging plant in at least two lines alongside one other.

A7 16. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein each blister pack comprises a contact lens in blister packs.

Please add claims 22-26 as follows:

22. The method of claim 1, wherein the plastic film is a colored film whose color contrasts sharply with the color of the metal film, and wherein the colored plastic film is removed by means of the laser down to the metal film without perforating the metal film.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the metal film is an aluminum film.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the contact lens container is a blister pack and the laminated film is firmly welded with the blister pack to seal the blister pack.

A8 25. The method of claim 24, wherein several blister packs are covered and sealed by a strip of the laminated film and form a blister strip.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the laminated film is marked by laser after welding to the blister pack.